

V. REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (a) as being anticipated by Loose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,433). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Loose teaches a spinning reel slot machine. The slot machine includes a plurality of mechanical rotatable reels and a video display. In response to a wager, the reels are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area. The video display provides a video image superimposed upon the reels. The video image may be interactive with the reels and include such graphics as payout values, a pay table, pay lines, bonus game features, special effects, thematic scenery, and instructional information.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a cabinet, at least one decoration panel disposed on the front of the cabinet, display windows provided on the front of the cabinet and plurality of rotatory reels and at least one light source unit. Claim 1 recites that the plurality of rotatory reels are operative to rotate about a common axis of rotation and positioned in a juxtaposed manner inside the cabinet and each one of the plurality of rotatory reels has a plurality of symbols disposed on respective outer peripheries thereof with forward most ones of the plurality of symbols being visible through the display windows. Claim 1 further recites that the at least one light source unit is disposed inside of the cabinet and behind the at least one decoration panel. Additionally, claim 1 recites that the at least one light source unit includes an illuminating lamp and a reflection plate positioned adjacent the illuminating lamp such that the at least one decoration panel is illuminated by light illuminating from the illuminating lamp and the forward most ones of the plurality of symbols are illuminated by the light illuminating from the illuminating lamp and by light illuminating from the illuminating lamp reflected from the reflection plate.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is

respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach that the at least one light source unit is disposed inside of the cabinet and behind the at least one decoration panel. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach that the at least one light source unit includes an illuminating lamp and a reflection plate positioned adjacent the illuminating lamp such that the at least one decoration panel is illuminated by light illuminating from the illuminating lamp and the forward most ones of the plurality of symbols are illuminated by the light illuminating from the illuminating lamp and by light illuminating from the illuminating lamp reflected from the reflection plate. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 3-7 also include features not shown in the applied art.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

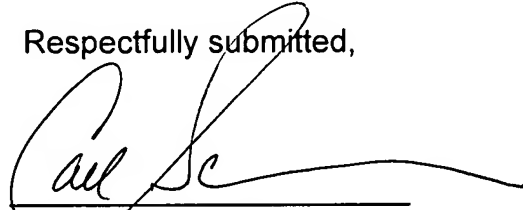
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same,

the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 24, 2007

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (one month)
 Information Disclosure Statement with four references

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